

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 131640Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7825

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4707

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO

SUBJ: SOCIALIST PARTY LABOR STRATEGY

REF: LISBON 4686

SUMMARY: SOCIALISTS ARE SEEKING TO DELAY NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS
WITH COMMUNIST-DOMINATED INTERSINDICAL. END SUMMARY

1. REFTEL REPORTS SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARIO SOARES'S COMMENTS
ON THE NEED TO POSTPONE THE PROPOSED NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS,
TO BE HELD JOINTLY BY THE SOCIALIST-LED UNIONS AND THE
PCP-DOMINATED CONFEDERATION, INTERSINDICAL.

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2. SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY RUI MATEUS TOLD EMBOFF JULY 12 THAT PS NEEDS MORE TIME TO PREPARE BEFORE MEETING PCP HEAD-ON IN LABOR CONGRESS. THEY MIGHT GO INTO A CONGRESS WITH A ROUGH PARITY WITH THE COMMUNIST UNIONS, BUT THE INEXPERIENCE OF THE SOCIALIST TRADE UNIONISTS WOULD MAKE THEM "LAMBS LED TO SLAUGHTER." THE PS NOW HAS ABOUT FIVE FULL TIME LABOR ACTIVISTS; THEY NEED 125 TO DO THE JOB THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

3. MATEUS STATED THAT IF THE LABOR CONGRESS WERE HELD IN OCTOBER, AS ORIGINALLY PROJECTED, THE COMMUNISTS WOULD PROBABLY WIN 17 OF THE 25 POSITIONS ON THE DIRECTORATE OF ANY NEWLY FORMED NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATION. CONSEQUENTLY, THE SOCIALISTS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN AN EFFORT TO DELAY THE CONGRESS. THEY ARE USING THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR LATE 1976 AS A REASON FOR POSTPONING THE CONGRESS UNTILL EARLY 1977. MATEUS STATES THAT IN REALITY THEY NEED AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR TO PREPARE BUT THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PUT THE CONGRESS OFF THAT LONG.
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